

Proposed ALA/LC Ladino Romanization Table (Draft, June 2003)

Ladino	Roman	Examples
א ¹	(-) a-	אמאר /amar/ "love"
	'	פאה /pe'ah/ "side curl"
איי	ay	טראמב'איי /tramvay/ "railroad"
ב, ב	b	בושקאר /bushkar/ "look for"
ב', ב'	v	אחארב'אר /aharvar/ "beat"
ג, ג	g	סאנגרי /sangre/ "blood"
ג', ג'	j	אג'וסטאר /ajustar/ "add"
ג	ch	גיקיס /chikes/ "youth"
ד, ד	d	דין /din/ "religious law"
ד', ד'	dh	סוד'ור /sudhor/ "sweat"
ה ⁴	-ah	סאלה /salah/ "room"

ר ⁴	ץ	שט /yeshet/ "gullet"
	ס	דוס /dos/ "two"
	פ	אגואה /agwah/ "water"
ו	u	קארפוס /karpus/ "watermelon"
וא ²	we	מואים /mwes/ "nut"
ואי	wi	סואיב'אר /swivar/ "follow"
ויי	uy	מוי /muy/ "much"
ויי	oy	בויי /boy/ "height, size"
ז	z	קאזאל /kazal/ "village"
ז', ז'	zh	מוז'יר /muzher/ "woman, wife"
ח	h	חאביר /haber/ "news"
ט	ṭ	טאד'רי /ṭadhre/ "late"
י	y	יוסף /Yosef/ "Joseph"
	e	ביל /bel/ "waist"
י'	i	פורימליק /purimlik/ "Purim present"

יֵי	y	יֵי /yo/ "I"
	ye	יֵיב'אר /yevār/ "carry" דייַס /dyes/ "ten"
יִי	yi	סיגִיר /segīr/ "follow"
יֵי	ey	רֵי /rey/ "king"
כּ. כַּ	k	כַּבֹּד /kavod/ "honor"
כּ, כַּ	kh	בֵּרַכָּה /berakhah/ "blessing" מֶלֶךְ /melekh/ "king"
ל	l	לַאמְבִיר /lamber/ "lick"
מ, מַ	m	מֵייל /myel/ "honey" חַמָּאָם /ḥamam/ "bath house"
נ, נַ	n	נַה! /nah!/ "here! Behold!" לַאדְרוֹן /ladhron/ "thief"
ס	s	סוּטְלַאָג /suṭlach/ "rice pudding"
ע ⁴	‘	מַעְרָה /me‘arah/ "cave"
פּ, פַּ	p	פַּאראַס /paras/ "money" קאַסאַפּ /kasap/ "butcher"
פּ, פַּ, פֿ, פֿ, פֿ, פֿ	f	פֿיַן /fin/ "end" חַרִיף /ḥarif/ "acute"
ץ ⁴ , צ ⁴	ts	צַדָּקָה /tsedaqah/ "charity"

ק	ḵ	קאב'זאר /ḵavzar/ "cause"
ר	r	ראקי /raḵi/ "arak"
ש	sh	שאב'ון /shavon/ "soap"
ש	ś	בשורה / beśorah/ "good news"
ת	t	תורה /Torah/ "Torah"
Ligature		
א	al	באטה /balṭah/ "ax"

General notes

1. א is not represented in romanization when it precedes ו, וי, or י at the beginning of a word or when it appears between any combination of the vowels /e/ or /i/ (both spelled י), /o/ or /u/ (both spelled ו) when they are adjacent. In words of Hebrew or Aramaic derivation, it is represented by '/'.
2. At the beginning of a word, ואי is always preceded by -ג, as in גואירטה /gwerṭah/ "garden".
3. יי may sometimes be spelled ליי when it represents /y/ and /ye/, as in ליי /yo/ "I".

4. Words of Hebrew-Aramaic origin usually retain their traditional spellings in Ladino. Such words are romanized according to the ALA/LC Hebrew romanization table. Initial ן (not ןו), י (not יי), non-final ה, כ (kh), ן, ן, ן (ś), and ת are usually found only in words of Hebrew-Aramaic derivation; in rare instances they may also appear in words borrowed from Arabic or Turkish. In some traditions, ן may appear where other traditions use the letter ס.

Notes on pronunciation

ך /ch/ as in “chop”	ש /sh/ as “shop”
ד /dh/ as in “lather”	כ /kh/ as in German “ach”
ג /j/ as in “gentle”	ז /zh/ as in “azure”

The pairs ן /v/ and ן /v/, ן /h/ and כ /kh/, ס /s/ and ש /ś/, כ /k/ and ק /k/ are distinguished in the script but not in pronunciation.

Notes on Ladino/Judezmo diacritics

No standard orthography for Ladino/Judezmo has even been formally adopted. Words of Hebrew or Aramaic derivation usually maintain their traditional spellings. However, Ladino/Judezmo words of non-Semitic derivation do use a number of consonants no longer found in Castilian Spanish. These diacritics, such as rafé, geresh or a superscript dot, may be found with varying consistencies in publications.

Reference sources

At present, no single dictionary constitutes an authoritative or normative source for the romanization of Ladino/Judezmo. For words of Spanish derivation, refer to the 4200+ word Judezmo/Hebrew glossary at the end of David Bunis's *Leshon G'udezmo* (Jerusalem, 1999), which employs a vocalization system devised by the author employing ħirik, tsere, ħolam and shuruħ as vowel marks. Ladino/Judezmo words of Hebrew or Aramaic origin written in Hebrew characters appear in written texts either in traditional etymological spellings, or in phonetic or partially phonetic spellings. These words should be romanized according to the

Library of Congress Hebrew romanization table. In problematic cases, where, for example, it is impossible to differentiate between "e" and "i", or "o" and "u," or when words of non-Spanish, non-Hebraic origin are in question, refer to such dictionaries as those by Joseph Nehama (*Dictionnaire du judéo-espagnol*), Elli Kohen (*Ladino-English, English-Ladino: Concise Encyclopedic Dictionary (Judeo-Spanish)*), and Pascual Pascual Recuero (*Diccionario básico ladino-español*).

References:

1. Bunis, David M. [*Leshon G'udezmo*]. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, The Hebrew University, c1999: p. 465-551; [transcription system for "yod", "double yod", p. 56-57].
2. Bunis, David M. *A Lexicon of the Hebrew and Aramaic Elements in Modern Judezmo*. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, The Hebrew University; Misgav Yerushalayim, Institute for Research on the Sephardi and Oriental Jewish Heritage, 1993.
3. Nehama, Joseph. *Dictionnaire du judéo-espagnol*. Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Instituto "Benito Arias Montano", 1977.
4. Kohen, Elli. *Ladino-English, English-Ladino: Concise Encyclopedic Dictionary (Judeo-Spanish)*. New York: Hippocrene, 2000.
5. Pascual Recuero, Pascual. *Ortografía del Ladino: soluciones y evolución*. Granada: Universidad de Granada, Departamento de Estudios Semíticos, 1988.
6. Pascual Recuero, Pascual. *Diccionario básico ladino-español*. Barcelona: Ameller, 1977.